
CHAT SAVVY

Online Communication and Identifying Information

i-SAFE Lesson Plan

Suggested Grade Level: Middle School

Goal

Learners will develop a comprehensive understanding of the concept of personal information and why it should not be revealed while online.

Learning Objectives

Learners will:

- Be able to identify what is personal information.
- Be able to identify and comprehend the dangers of revealing personal information.
- Demonstrate the ability to make informed choices about revealing information while online.
- Be able to articulate and communicate their knowledge and understanding of personal information to peers and others.

Materials / Preparation

- Copy or Chat activity page on overhead or as copies for students.

PROCEDURES

Discussion

- Explain that today you will be talking about basic Internet safety guidelines.
- Ask Students: What do you do while online?
- Explain that while online – you are not by yourself (despite being at home behind a computer) you are interacting with others. There are dangers. Ask if they were told when young – Do not talk to strangers? See a show of hands. Yet, how many of them talk to strangers every day while online?
- Question students – Who do they talk to while online, what do they reveal.
- Ask: What makes you unique? Ask students to consider this silently.

Optional Activity

Identifying Facts Activity – process of elimination.

There are three options for this activity (A, B, or C):

A. Three pieces of Info

1. Begin by asking students to think of three pieces of factual information that make them unique. Students may write these down if pen and paper are available. If necessary – give an example like their name is one thing that starts to make them unique.
2. Call on several students to find out what their three pieces of information are. Use one of them as an example. For example – provided name, birthdate, and phone number.
3. Ask every student with the same first name to remain standing, then just those with the same name and birthdate, etc.

B. Note card elimination

1. Have students fill out note cards with their name, address, birthdates, hair color, eye color, etc. at the beginning of the presentation.
2. Collect notecards and randomly select one.
3. Ask a preliminary question such as all students who attend _____ school please stand.
4. Then use the questions from the chosen card to slowly eliminate down until only one student is standing.

C. Preselect Student

1. Ask a teacher or administrator to preselect a student and give you information such as name, age, hobbies/interests, hair color – or other identifying information.
2. Use this information to again narrow down to one or two students standing.

Review/discuss:

Explain that the more information a person has about you, the more identifiable you become. Ask students what some of the dangers are of a person knowing these personal, identifiable things about you. Cover the following:

- What is identifying information? Ask students for their answers
- Explain there are certain types of information that identify who we are. For example: name, phone number, address, etc.
- Ask students why they shouldn't reveal information online. Review their scenarios.
- Review potential abuses of private information online: identity theft, predators, bullies, etc.

Activity:

1. Hand out the chat race worksheet to students.
2. Tell students to find examples of both identifying information and where the chatters gave indirect information away.
3. Give students two minutes to find mistakes.
 - Call on students to point out errors in the chat. Discuss each error and whether it is personal information or indirect information.
 - Ask students what is wrong with the screen names chosen.
 - Reveal answer key to chat race (make an overhead).
 - Ask students what they have learned from the chat activity.
 - Ask students to use their own words to share what they have learned about personal information and being safe online with the class.

Student Enrichment Activity

Select one of the following or create your own project:

- Have students conduct the chat race and discussion for another class.
- Have students conduct an online chat on Internet safety for parents.

Additional lessons available on this topic from i-SAFE America

Complete the online Professional Development Module on Personal Safety at <http://ilearn.isafe.org> and receive the complete set of Personal Safety lesson plans.

Activity

Sample Chat

Sample Chat

Directions: You have two minutes to find the mistakes these chatters made. Circle where they have revealed direct information. Underline it if they are revealing something indirectly.

Queenbee1234: I hate Algebra!!!!

Skaterdude14: I sooo sympathize – my math teacher gave me 28 problems for homework.

Melanie13: You guys are so smart, I'm just in regular math.

Skaterdude14: Really – what school do you go to?

Melanie13: Brinnett Palms, its in Miami Florida.

Coolio: You are sooo lucky girl, I live in stinking Wisconsin. I never get to sunbathe.

TYlerkid: I live in California – love the waves.

Queenbee1234: I always wanted to visit California – My mom and sisters think I'm stupid since I live near the water anyway.

TYlerkid: Yeah, you haven't lived until you've tried surfing. Send me your emails and I'll show you a neat picture of this ten foot wave I caught one day.

Coolio: awesome – mine is coolio@aol.com

Queenbee1234: Ok – queenbeeinsavannah@earthlink.net

Melanie13: I don't have my own – only my parents. My dad likes to “supervise” what we receive. But hey – you can mail it to me – I'm at 515 Palm Ave Miami, FL 21212

Skaterdude14: I'd really like to talk to you, I'm planning to come out that way with my parents. Maybe I could call you and get some ideas. I don't want to be stuck with my parents the whole time!

TYlerkid: No prob man – it's 760-555-1941

Coolio: I would kill to come out there. My birthday is next week, maybe if I beg and plead my parents would agree to a mini vacation.

Melanie13: You are sooo lucky. I have to wait another three months for my birthday. It's like everyone else I know is older then me – I'm a young 8th grader.

Queenbee1234: Well I have the opposite problem – I should be in 9th grade but I got held back in 1st grade.

TYlerkid: Hey Queenbee – what is your real name. You and coolio have these funky screen names.

Queenbee1234: My mom helped me pick it – she didn't want people to be able to tell much about me. My name's really plain – Sara.

Coolio: Nah – I'm not telling mine. I like my screen name much better. I mean have you ever heard a good guys name that started with an H?

Melanie13: An H? Hmmmm – Hank? Harvie?

Coolio: Nope – not even close! And you can stop there – I'm not telling.

